CLAIMS

1 - Coated sodium percarbonate particles containing a sodium percarbonate core surrounded by at least one coating layer comprising at least one inorganic coating material, the coated particles having a content of available oxygen of at least 3 % by weight, and being fizzy to such an extent that 2 g of the coated particles dissolved in 50 ml of water at 20°C generate more than 0,4 ml of gas after 2 min.

2 - Coated sodium percarbonate particles according to claim 1, being fizzy to such an extent that 2 g of the coated particles dissolved in 50 ml of water at 20°C generate at least 1 ml of gas after 2 min.

3. – Coated sodium percarbonate particles according to claim 1 or 2, being fizzy to such an extent that 1 g of the coated particles dissolved in 50 ml of water at 20° C generate at least 0,4 ml of gas after 2 min.

4 - Coated sodium percarbonate particles according to any of claims 1 or 3, having a content of available oxygen of at least 10 % by weight.

5 - Coated sodium percarbonate particles according to any of claims 1 to 4, in which the inorganic coating material is chosen from sodium silicate, sodium borate, boric acid, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfate and their mixtures.

6 - Process for the preparation of the coated sodium percarbonate particles of any of claims 1 to 5, comprising a first step in which the sodium percarbonate core particles are prepared, at least one subsequent coating step in which the core particles are coated with the coating material, and a heat treatment carried out between the first step and the subsequent step, or during the subsequent step, or after the subsequent step, the heat treatment being carried out by heating the particles up to an end temperature T and maintaining the particles during a period t at the end temperature T, T (expressed in °C) and t (expressed in min) corresponding to the formula

$T \geq 0{,}000567\, t^2 - 0{,}24\, t + 114{,}490$ when T is up to 110°C, and

$T \geq -2\, t + 150$ when T is above 110°C.

7 - Process according to claim 6, in which the end temperature T of the heat treatment ranges from 80 to 140°C.

8 - Process according to claim 6 or 7, in which the period t of the heat treatment ranges from 5 min to 4 h.

9 - Process according to any of claims 6 to 8, in which the heat treatment is carried out in a fluid bed reactor in which the particles are fluidized by an upward flow of hot air.

10 - Use of the coated sodium percarbonate particles of any of claims 1 to 5 as active bleach constituent in detergent compositions.

11 - Detergent compositions containing the coated sodium percarbonate particles of any of claims 1 to 5 as active bleach constituent.